

What is claimed is:

1. A device for carrying a payload, which may include a user, over a surface, the device comprising:
  - a. a payload support which supports the payload at a height above the surface,
  - b. a ground-contacting module, mounted to the platform, including a plurality of laterally disposed ground-contacting members and defining a fore-aft plane;
  - c. a motorized drive arrangement, coupled to the ground-contacting module; the drive arrangement, ground-contacting module and payload constituting a system; the motorized drive arrangement causing, when powered, automatically balanced operation of the system in an operating position that is unstable with respect to tipping in at least a fore-aft plane when the motorized drive arrangement is not powered; and
  - d. an elevation mechanism for permitting variation of the height of the payload above the surface.
2. A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the payload support includes a ladder.
3. A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the elevation mechanism includes a hydraulic cylinder and piston.
4. A device in accordance with claim 1, further including a counterweight for maintaining the center of gravity substantially above a point of contact with the surface.
5. A device in accordance with claim 1, further including a foot for stabilizing the device at a single location.
6. A method for conveying a person to conduct an activity at one specified location, at least, the method comprising:
  - a. placing the person on an elevated support coupled to balancing personal work platform, the platform coupled to a motorized drive; and
  - b. operating the motorized drive, taking into account frictional and gravitational forces acting on the system, in order to adjust lean of the system in the fore-aft plane to control motion of the platform.
7. A method in accordance with claim 6, further including locking the motorized drive at a specified position in a mode in which dynamic balancing is disabled.